

WST3015: Intro to Women's Studies

Focuses on introducing feminism and women's studies in their historical and cultural contexts. Students explore and analyze the ways gender is shaped by and shapes institutional practices, experiences of individuals within these institutions, and social policy. The course focuses on the distinction between gender and sex, paying special attention to social construction of gender while still recognizing the material realities of lived experiences. The goal of this course is to sensitize students to the importance of understanding gender in relation to other important categories and social factors such as race, age, class, sexuality, national context, and others, what we refer to as "intersectionality." In this course, students complete a service-learning project that works benefit women and/or girls within our communities.

Sample of Issues Addressed:

- Socially Lived Theorizing
- Gendering as Social Structure
- The Gender Pay Gap and the Gendered Division of Labor
- Women's Health
- Violence Against Women
- Representations of Women in Media

WST3603: Intro to Gender Studies

Focuses on the concept of gender (as distinct from and/or linked to sex) and its relationship to other identity categories, such as race, class, and sexuality. Students explore and analyze the ways gender is shaped by and shapes institutional practices, experiences of individuals within these institutions, and social policy. The goal of this course is to think more critically about gender in everyday life and society, and to evaluate arguments about gender from various interdisciplinary perspectives.

Sample of Issues Addressed:

- Perspectives on Gender
- Gender Socialization
- Gender and Sexuality
- Gender, Marriage and Family
- Gender and Work
- Gendered Bodies and Media/Technology
- Gender, Politics, and Power

WST3020: Girls Studies

Focuses on the material experiences of girls in U.S. and global cultures through various feminist theoretical lenses, examining the position of girls in relation to dominant cultural practices and larger social, institutional, and political transformations. Emphasizes texts produced by and for girls in Western and global contexts, attending to the expansion of female youth culture beyond consumer-oriented activities to those involving cultural production and analyzes representations of girls in dominant culture and how they respond to these representations via their own media productions as they develop their identities. Analyses attend to the ways that race, ethnicity, economic status, and culture shape the everyday lives of girls and their cultural productions.

Sample of Issues Addressed:

- Constructing Girlhood
- What is Girls Studies?

- Schooling Girls: Education, Friendship, and Girl Culture
- Girls in/and Popular Culture(s)
- Girls and Body Image
- Girls and Sexualities
- Girls, Activism, and the Future
- Global Girls

WST 3371: Women and Leadership

Examines classical and contemporary leadership theories, including feminist leadership theory to explore the role gender has on perceptions and access to leadership for women in the United States. Analyze the ways that other important categories and social factors such as race, age, class, sexuality, ability, and others have on women's access to leadership. This course seeks to answer some of these guiding questions: How does gender impact the way people lead and perceive leadership? What "makes" a leader? Is this different for women that lead? How might leadership be defined in the public and private spheres? How do media, cultural texts, and popular culture teach/show women as leaders? The goal of this course is to understand the history of and obstacles to women's leadership.

Sample of Issues Addressed:

- Introduction to Classical Leadership Theories and Feminist leadership Theory
- Formal/Informal Leadership
- Political Parity, "The Glass Ceiling," and the "Second Shift"
- Gendered Pay Gap and Salary Negotiations
- Representations of Women Leaders in Media
- National and Global Case Studies of Women Leaders

WST 3460 Women, Race, and Struggle

This course is a survey of the contributions of women of color to the critical theoretical project "womanism." With a focus on U.S.-American contexts, we will analyze the central themes and issues in the writings of women of color, exploring the boundaries of womanist thought. While the central concerns of womanists vary, in this course students look at the underpinning themes of the "intersectionality," the importance of family and community in the lives and politics of women of color, and the significance of spirituality as a way of constructing a way of being in the world. Examines these concerns through a critical reading of a wide range of texts—from essays, short stories, poems, critical cultural analysis, and activist manuals. Focus on contributions to womanist thinking since the height of the civil rights and second-wave women's movements.

Sample of Issues Addressed:

- Introduction to the History of Womanist Thought
- Intersectionality
- Naming and Identity Politics
- Alice Walker's Womanism
- Spirituality
- Representations of Women of Color in the Media
- Abolition and Incarceration/Criminalization
- Motherhood
- Environmental Justice
- Reproductive Justice

WST3561: Third Wave Feminisms

Creates new ways in theory and practice to address the situation(s) of women and girls in contemporary cultures. Building on both the theoretical insights and real world accomplishments of Second Wave Feminism, Third Wave represents both an innovative continuation of identity politics, as well as a way to resolve the disempowerment and isolation resulting from the limitations of fixed identity categories. The challenge of this theory is to bridge the gap between the identity politics of the Second Wave and the insistence of Third Wave on claiming various identities, including but not limited to gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, and class. Third Wave Feminism(s) “talks back” to Second Wave Feminism by recognizing various forms of oppression and linking them to broader issues, such as equal access to the internet and technology, HIV/AIDS awareness, sexual abuse, sexual freedom, globalization, eating disorders, reproductive freedom, and a reclamation of popular culture and language that Second Wave Feminism sought to eliminate. Third Wave Feminism(s) continues to value the personal as political and encourages a “feminism for all approach.”

Sample of issues addressed:

- What is Third Wave Feminism?
- Brief overview of previous (1st and 2nd) waves
- Activism/Social Justice in the Third Wave
- Girlie/Postfeminism/Backlash
- Fluid Bodies/Identities/Sexualities
- Pop Culture/Media/Internet Culture
- Transgressing/Transnational

WST3500: Gender Issues in Activism

Focuses on activism and social justice related to gender, race, class, sexuality, the environment, and globalization. Through service-learning activities with community partners, students will apply feminist theories of gender-based activism to practical approaches in their own communities (or communities of their choice). Students read texts, watch films and film clips, and analyze websites and organizations to explore the many considerations and issues particular gender-based activism entails.

Sample of issues addressed:

- Introducing Feminist Activism: A Brief History of Feminist Activism, The “Waves,”
- Feminist and Gender-Based Activism: Personal is Political and “Empowerment”
- Body as Battleground: Reproductive Justice, Ability and Health Issues
- War is Not the Answer: Pro-Peace/Anti-War Movements
- Laboring for Justice: Class-Based Movements
- Going Green or Going Shopping? Globalization, Consumerism, and Ecofeminism

WST3522: First and Second Wave Feminism

Explores the historical background of the birth of the Feminist movement in this country and the two waves of activism prior to 1990. Students will recognize who was responsible for many of the rights and protections women have in today’s society. This class will compliment any student interest in history-- since most of the prominent women, who fought for women’s rights, during the early and mid 20th Century are not included in any other college course. Together as a class students will complete a timeline Wiki exercise on a both the First and Second Wave major events and supporters.

Sample of issues addressed:

- Seneca Falls, N. Y., Women’s Rights Convention
- Fight for the right to vote
- Definitions on womanhood; intersectionalities; radical feminism; LGBTQ issues; activism
- Decade by decade discussion on the advances and challenges of women’s rights in society
- Criticism on lack of intersectionalities of social class and race in the movement

WST3621: Theories of Masculinity

Introduces students to theories of masculinity from feminist perspectives and examines constructions of masculinity in media, sports, family, work and other social relationships. Explores issues of race, class, sexuality, and examine links between masculinity and violence. Emphasizes the role and existence of normative constructions of masculinity throughout our readings and discussions. Gender is a construct that can be deconstructed; however, a normative masculine male lauded as the norm exists in our culture and demands our attention. We also explore non-normative “masculinities.” As with all Preston-Sidler courses, films and websites are an important form of texts used in the course.

Sample of issues addressed:

- Act Like a Man: Introducing Masculinities
- Theorizing Masculinity
- The Male Body
- Racialized Masculinities
- Queering Masculinities (and Masculinity & Sexuality)
- Violent Masculinities
- Resisting / Men’s Movements/Men & Feminism

WST4023: Virtual Girls / Girls and/in Digital Media

Examines the role of technology in the lives of girls. Students explore various ways girls construct identity through digital media such as social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), cams/videos (YouTube and otherwise), instant/text messaging, internet role-playing, blogging, and other digital mediums and activities. Explores the potential for abuse through such publicly-performed identity (online predators, cyberstalking, peer bullying), as well as the potential for positive self-expression and resistance. Examines how digital literacy can empower and how a lack of access can negatively affect girls in local and global contexts.

Sample of Issues Addressed:

- Introduction/History of Girls Studies and Girls’ Media Culture(s)
- Media Literacy / Digital Literacy
- Negotiating Identity Online
- Online Sexualities and Girlhood
- Girls as Cultural Producers and Resisters
- Girls Go Public/Performance/Microcelebrity
- Dangers/Predators Online
- Virtual Girls as Consumers
- Community, Content, and Commerce
- Digital Communication/Friendships/Spaces

WST4415: Global and Transnational Feminisms

This course examines, from a women-centered perspective, the theory, personal narratives of activists, and the history of women working for global women's issues. Acknowledging the link between women's words and social change, this course considers how women theorize a global and/or transnational feminist movement. We will study how women's activism and theory upholds or resists dominant cultural constructions of globalization and transnational policies and practices. Throughout the course of the semester students read from anthropologists, UN panelists, sociologists, feminist theorist, and activist "women on the ground" in order to learn about the difficulties and triumphs of working toward gender equity worldwide. As a class, students also work together on a local-to-global service-learning project.

Sample Issues Addressed:

- The role of the United Nations in Gender Equality
- Women's Rights as Human Rights
- Postcolonial Feminist Theorizing
- Globalization, Transnational, International
- Movement Building
- Caste Studies of Grassroots Women's Organizing
- Militarization, War and Peace, Environmental Justice, Immigration, Human Trafficking

WST4402: Research on Women and Gender

This course sets out to discuss these questions, realizing that the ways women conduct research, and the ways research is conducted with gender in mind, are as various as the researchers themselves. "Research in Women and Gender" is a three-credit-hour web course that explores feminist epistemologies and research methods, with a focus on providing students with the opportunity to put these methodologies into practice in their own research. We will focus on feminist and women's and gender studies scholars and how those scholars challenge and/or adhere to dominant theories and research methods of the major disciplines (social sciences, humanities, etc.). In essence, we will look at the ways that gender theory and feminist politics shape the ways that scholars ask research questions, the types of materials and "toolbox" used to conduct and interpret the research, and how these scholars understand themselves and their subjects in the research process.

Sample Issues Addressed:

- Interdisciplinary Feminist Methodologies
- Qualitative and Quantitative Feminist Research Methods
- Source Retrieval Skills
- Undergraduate Research Conference Proposals/Presentations
- Research and Writing as a Process
- Case Studies of Feminist Research

WST4021: Girls and Leadership

This course asks students to look not just at girl's studies or at leadership development, but specifically to study the ways that leadership, as a discourse, shapes, confines, and constructs girls and the ways that girls speak back to, redefine, and/or are constricted by those discourses. This course is based on the assumption that knowing about girls and leadership – that understanding power, authority, and community as they apply to girls in particular – and working via service learning with girls doing leadership—will impact how we understand ourselves, girls, and youth in general, as leaders. The course is based on the following assumptions: that throughout history women and girls have had less access to leadership roles than have men and boys and that youth have had less access to leadership

than adults; that the reasons for this limited access are complex, varying, and multifaceted; and, finally, that so far as leadership is concerned, girls have challenges that uniquely are theirs.

Sample Issues Addressed

- Introduction to Girls' Studies
- Introduction to Youth Leadership Theories
- Girl's Leadership as an "Intervention"
- Consumption and Commodification: Girls as Market Leaders
- Representations of Girls and Girls Leadership in Media
- Case Studies of Girls Leadership Programs